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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.



Dear Sir:

Many sportsmen and others believe that the protection of waterfowl and shorebirds on their northward flight to their nesting grounds is essential to their preservation, and the closed season in spring under the Migratory Bird Law seeks to afford the needed protection and to abolish spring shooting. Two seasons will soon have passed in which the law has been in effect, and we have already received numerous reports from various sections indicating a decided increase in the number of migrant waterfowl, as also in the number of ducks breeding locally in the United States, apparently as a direct result of protection afforded under this law. If you have any data on the subject, especially as regards the increase or decrease in the number of ducks and geese that in their northern flight pass through, or that breed within, your State as indicated by the accompanying questions, I shall be greatly obliged if you will favor us with them.

Very truly yours,

Chief, Biological Survey.

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1. Was there a marked increase in any species of waterfowl in your locality during the past season? If so, please state the species.

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2. Was there a marked decrease in the abundance of waterfowl in your vicinity? If so, please name the species and state clearly whether such decrease was confined to more than one species and whether it was local or general throughout your State.

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3. Was there a marked increase or decrease in the number of jack-snipe, shorebirds, or other migratory birds during the past season?

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4. Was the past season unusual in any way; that is, were weather or other conditions such as to cause an increase or decrease in the abundance of birds, or otherwise to affect normal conditions?

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